

## Communicative Competence

(Language Proficiency)

<http://englishilhem.byethost11.com/>

### Definition :

In general, communicative competence may be **defined as the ability to use language (L2) effectively and appropriately**. It is not only **the competence of the grammatical rules** governing sounds, word forms, and word orders to convey meaning (phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics) but also knowledge of social conventions of language use.

**e.g.**, How to start and end a conversation smoothly; how to enter a conversation **without interrupting other individuals**, etc.

♣ It was coined by **Dell Hymes in 1966**, against **Chomsky's (1965)** notion of competence that was too limited.

♣ **Canale & Swain (1980)** defined C.C in terms of **four components**:

1. Grammatical C (**Words & Rules**)
2. Sociolinguistic C (**Appropriateness**)
3. Discourse C (**Cohesion & Coherence**)
4. Strategic C (**Appropriate use of communication strategies**)

### More details:

**1. Grammatical C:** is mastering the linguistic code of a language, focuses on sentence-level grammar.

**2. Sociolinguistic C:** is the knowledge of the socio-cultural rules of language and discourse. This type of competence “requires an understanding of the social context in which language is used: the role of participants, the information they share, the function of the interaction...etc”.

**3. Discourse C:** is the ability to use grammatical competence. The ability to connect sentences in stretches of discourse and to form meaningful utterances.

**4. Strategic C:** The way we manipulate language in order to meet communicative goals. It can enhance the effectiveness of communication or to compensate for breakdowns.

### Communicative Competence Components:

1. Grammatical C.
2. Sociolinguistic C.
3. Discourse C.
4. Strategic C.

### Communicative Competence Aspects:

#### A/ Linguistic Aspects: (Function & Structure of the language)

a/ phonology competence (sounds of lge)

b/ orthographic competence (interpret and write the system of lge)

#### ♣ Linguistic aspects are concerned with:

**1. Grammatical C.** (grammatical structure includes "Phonological C")

**2. Discourse C.** (there are two related competences: **1- Textual Discourse C:** the ability to understand and construct written texts of different genres. **2- Conversational/ Interactional C:** the ability to participate effectively in conversations)

**3. Vocabulary C.**

#### B/ Pragmatic Ability: (lge in use; in communication situations)

is knowing the unwritten rules of interaction of a given speech community & culture. **E.g.**, body lge, eye contact, etc.

#### ♣ Pragmatic Ability is concerned with:

**1. Functional C.** (communication purposes)

**2. Sociolinguistic C.** (how to interpret social varieties = codes & use the appropriate one)

**3. Interactional C.**

